

**From:** Randy Tidd  
**To:** Microsoft ATR  
**Date:** 1/25/02 9:27am  
**Subject:** Microsoft Settlement

I am a professional software engineer that has been writing software for both Windows and non-Windows platforms since 1986. The proposed settlement against Microsoft is woefully insufficient to stop or reverse the damage they are doing and have done to the computing field. It is impossible for any innovations in the desktop PC software industry to survive and Microsoft has a technical, financial, and creative stranglehold on the industry.

The American capitalist system is founded on the ideas of free trade and free competition and there are laws in place to maintain such a marketplace. Microsoft has been in violation of these laws for years and the way they do business must change if our wildly successful capitalist principles are to apply to the desktop software and related industries.

Thank you,

Randy Tidd  
rtidd@speakeasy.net